

**From:** Eric Jorgensen  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/28/01 12:59pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am a professional in the information technology field - and have been for over 13 years. It was with some interest that I saw the Justice Department file suit with Microsoft the first time related to browser bundling (1994-1995). However, I believe that the terms of that agreement have been violated, and are cause for concern that any agreement that does not provide for tough regulation of Microsoft will be similarly violated.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this case to me is Microsoft's complete denial of doing anything wrong. They contend this, even to this day. How can a company that doesn't believe it has done anything wrong be trusted to "do the right thing" in future dealings? Microsoft has proven itself to be untrustworthy, and the current settlement is merely a slap on the wrist and will have no long-standing effect against the monopoly that is Microsoft.

I do not necessarily believe that Microsoft should be split. However, I do believe the following items should be addressed in any settlement (and are not addressed in the current settlement).

- bundling: Microsoft has pursued a tactic where software is bundled in with the operating system. First browsers, now media players. This needs to stop, as vendors such as Netscape, and now Real Networks, find themselves at a competitive disadvantage when every new PC has competing software already installed by default.

- java: Microsoft's current operating system, Windows XP, is further limiting consumer choice by not supporting java. This is a direct slap in the face to the Department of Justice, and the American consumers as a whole. They call this "innovation", but it is removing functionality already present in previous versions of the operating system.

- .NET: Microsoft is at a dangerous crossroads, where

they intend to move their monopoly from the desktop to the Internet. For example, I was a user of the Visio diagramming tool. It was used to generate databases in Oracle. However, Microsoft bought the company, and now Visio is part of the MS Office Suite. Functionality that used to be in the program is now in the Visual Basic Studio .NET program - and only works with Microsoft products. This is a dangerous precedent, and without strong supervision these sort of tactics will continue.

I urge everyone at the Justice Department to look closely at the current settlement and ask themselves several questions. Is this settlement the best for consumers, rather than just a simple resolution in difficult times? Will this settlement actually cause Microsoft to change its ways? Will this settlement be used by MS as a "vindication" of their practices, since they have admitted no wrongdoing?

So in conclusion, I cannot caution strongly enough against the settlement as it stands in current form. It is not effective and will not prevent the kinds of abuses that have happened in the past, and even continue to this day.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Jorgensen  
Parker, Colorado

---

Do You Yahoo!?

Yahoo! GeoCities - quick and easy web site hosting, just \$8.95/month.  
<http://geocities.yahoo.com/ps/info1>